

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00567 01 OF 03 191620Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5339

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 LUXEMBOURG 0567

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, LU
SUBJ: THORN INTERVIEW IN INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

1. JULY 19 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE CARRIES FRONT
PAGE INTERVIEW BY IHT CORRESPONDENT JAMES GOLDSBOROUGH
WITH PRIME MINISTER THORN HEADLINED QUOTE LUXEMBOURG CHIEF
RESPONDS TO CARTER UNQUOTE SUBHEADED QUOTE ASKS PATIENCE
ON EUROPE. UNQUOTE.
BECAUSE ARTICLE MAY NOT APPEAR IN U.S. PRESS OR BE
PICKED UP BY WIRE SERVICES, EMBASSY IS SENDING IT
VERBATIM.

2. BEGIN TEXT:
ASKS PATIENCE ON EUROPE

LUXEMBOURG CHIEF RESPONDS TO CARTER
BY JAMES GOLDSBOROUGH
LUXEMBOURG, JULY 18 (IHT).
-- WESTERN EUROPE IS SHOWING
SIGNS OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
DETERIORATION, PREMIER GASTON
THORN SAID HERE IN AN INTERVIEW,
BUT HE URGED THE UNITEDSTATES
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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00567 01 OF 03 191620Z

TO SHOW MORE PATIENCE IN UNDER-
STANDING EUROPEAN PROBLEMS.
MR. THORN WAS RESPONDING TO
REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON LAST
WEEK OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRA-
TION'S CONCERN OVER THE WEAKNESS
OF WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERN-

MENTS, AND OF A POSSIBLE U.S.
SHIFT OF POLICY TO LOOK MORE
BENIGNLY ON LEFTIST ALLIANCES THAT
INCLUDE THE EUROCOMMUNISTS.

"I CAN UNDERSTAND THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN," SAID THE LEADER OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY'S SMALLEST NATION. "THERE HAS BEEN DETERIORATION HERE BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY. I TOLD HIM AT THE LONDON SUMMIT MEETING THAT IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT A NEW PRESIDENT WITH A STRONG MANDATE WOULD GROW IMPATIENT WITH THE INABILITY OF EUROPE TO RESPOND TO HIS INITIATIVES. AND I URGED THAT HE SHOW PATIENCE."

MR. THORN, WHO WAS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL LAST YEAR, SAID THAT SOME OF MR. CARTER'S INITIATIVES, HAD "SIGNIFICANTLY PERTURBED" RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND EUROPE, AND HE URGED THAT BOTH CONTINUE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LUXEMB 00567 01 OF 03 191620Z

NENTS DO SOME STOCK-TAKING. HE PARTICULARLY THINKS WASHINGTON WENT TOO FAR ON THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION QUESTION, AND SAID, "THERE MUST NOT BE THE IMPRESSION THAT A NEW URANIUM CARTEL HAS TAKEN ITS PLACE BESIDE OPEC, THE OIL CARTEL."

EUROCOMMUNISM STANCE

MR. THORN WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AT REPORTS THAT WASHINGTON NOW TOOK A MORE DETACHED VIEW OF THE RISE OF EUROCOMMUNISTS TOWARD POWER. "THE COMMUNIST PARTIES STILL WANT TO FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM, AND THAT WOULD HAVE A TREMENDOUS AFFECT ON RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES," HE SAID. "WHATEVER OUR PROBLEMS TODAY,

THEY WOULD BE WORSE WITH THE
COMMUNISTS IN POWER."

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00567 02 OF 03 191624Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 3 LUXEMBOURG 0567

MR. THORN , THE LEADER OF LUX-
EMBOURG'S LIBERAL PARTY, DIS-
AGREED SHARPLY WITH THOSE WHO
BELIEVE THAT THE ELECTION OF LEFTIST
OPPOSITIONS IN FRANCE AND ITALY
COULD BE GOOD FOR BOTH COUNTRIES.
"THAT IS TOO OFTEN THE REACTION OF
OUR GEOGRAPHICALLY DISTANT
FRIENDS," HE SAID. "THERE IS PLEN-
TY OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION AROUND
WITHOUT VOTING FOR THE COMMU-
NISTS. IN FRANCE, I HEAR, THERE IS
EVEN OPPOSITION WITHIN THE
MAJORITY."

MR. THORN SAID THAT THE WEST-
ERN EUROPE NATIONS HAD A MIXED
OPINION OF THE CARTER ADMINSTRA-
TIONS'S STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS,
DEPENDING ON THEIR RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THEIR
GEOGRAPHY. A COUNTRY SUCH AS
WEST GERMANY IS IN PRACTICALLY
DAILY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EAST-
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00567 02 OF 03 191624Z

ERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. IF YOU GO TOO FAR DEFENDING ABSTRACT PRINCIPLES, YOU PREVENT THE DAILY IMPROVEMENTS. THE BEST IS OFTEN ENEMY OF THE GOOD. THESE COUNTRIES NEED THE REALITY OF DETENTE MORE THAN MORE DISTANT COUNTRIES."

MR. THORN WAS THE FIRST WEST-ERN EUROPEAN LEADER TO RESPOND TO THE REPORTS OUT OF THE WHITE HOUSE LAST WEEK ON THE EVE OF WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. THE REPORTS EMPHASIZED THE DIVISIONS AND TENSIONS THAT HAVE WEAKENED WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AND ECONOMIES, AND THE UNCERTAINTY OF ELECTIONS EVERYWHERE.

SEES LEADERSHIP CRISIS

FOR MR. THORN, THE DETERIORATION IS NOT JUST POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC, BUT MORAL AS WELL. THERE HAS BEEN AN ABDICATION OF LEADERSHIP AND VISION, HE THINKS, WHICH HAS PLUNGED THE CONTINENT BACK INTO RIVALRY AND NATIONALISM. "WE HAVE A GENERATION OF LEADERS TODAY," HE SAID, "FOR WHICH EUROPE NO LONGER HAS THE PRIORITY IT HAD FOR (ROBERT) SCHUMAN,

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PAGE 03 LUXEMB 00567 02 OF 03 191624Z

(ALCIDE) DE GASPERI AND (KONRAD) ADENAUER."

INSTEAD OF WORKING TOWARD EUROPEAN UNITY, HE SAID, "WE SEE EACH COUNTRY --FRANCE, WEST GERMANY AND BRITAIN--JEALOUSLY TRYING TO DOMINATE THINGS, AND WHEN THEY CAN'T, SPENDING THEIR ENERGY TRYING TO MAKE SURE THE OTHERS DON'T EITHER. THAT IS WHY EUROPE IS BLOCKED."

THE PREMIER SEES THE FLAME OF EUROPEAN UNITY BURNING ONLY IN THE SMALL COUNTRIES OF THE CONTINENT. "IT IS NATURAL THAT WE FEEL THE DRIVE FOR UNITY STRONGEST, BECAUSE WE ARE THE ONES THREATENED BY THE CONFLICTS OF THE BIG COUNTRIES. AND WE HAVE LESS HISTORY TO LIVE DOWN THAN THE BIG ONES."

MR. THORN SEES AN EVEN ROCKIER FUTURE FOR THE EEC AFTER THE ADMISSION OF GREECE, PORTUGAL, AND EVENTUALLY, SPAIN. "WE HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO THESE COUNTRIES," HE SAID. "BUT FOR THE COMMUNITY, THEIR MEMBERSHIP COULD BE FATAL. WE HAVE NOT YET DIGESTED THE MEMBERSHIP OF BRITAIN, IRELAND AND DENMARK. THE RISK IS ENORMOUS THAT THE COMMUNITY BE TRANSFORMED INTO A MERE FREE-TRADE ZONE."

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PAGE 04 LUXEMB 00567 02 OF 03 191624Z

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00567 03 OF 03 191623Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 3 LUXEMBOURG 0567

PARLIAMENTARY VOTE

HE IS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF EUROPEANS WHO OPPOSE THE FIRST DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, WHICH ARE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT SPRING. "DIRECT ELECTIONS MAY NOT BE THE UNIVERSAL PAN-ACEA," HE SAID, "BUT IN THIS PERIOD OF STAGNATION, WHEN WE ARE MAKING NO PROGRESS ANYWHERE, THEY ARE THE ONLY HOPE OF PROVIDING MOVEMENT."

AS FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO CURTAIL THE NEW PARLIAMENT'S POWER, MR. THORN SAID: "I DON'T WANT TO START UP A GUARREL AGAIN WITH THE (PARIS MAYOR JACQUES) CHIRAC SUPPORTERS AND GAULLISTS, BUT I THINK I ONLY NATURAL THAT NEW LEGITIMACY BE ACCCOMPANIED BY NEW POWERS. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT OTHERS--FRENCH, ENGLISH OR

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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00567 03 OF 03 191623Z

OTHER--SAY, ELECT THEM BUT DON'T GIVE THEM ANY POWERS. DON'T THEY RELIZE THAT SOME POWERS GO BEYOND NATIONAL INTERESTS?"

END TEXT. LOWENSTEIN

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